

Newes from Darby-shire.
OR THE *B. J. 1293*
Wonder of all Wonders.

That ever yet was Printed, being a perfect
and true Relation of the handy work of
Almighty God shown upon the body of
one *Martha Taylor* now living about a
mile or something more from *Backwell* in
Darby shire, hard by a Pasture commonly
called *Hadin Pasture*, this Maid as it hath
pleased the Lord, she hath fasted forty
weeks and more, which may very well be
called a wonder of all Wonders, though
most people which hear this may censure
this to be some Fable, yet if they please
but to take the pains to read over the
book, I hope that they will be better sa-
tisfied and have some faith to believe.

This Maid is still alive and hath a watch set over her
by order of the Earl of Devon-shire.

*Fear not O Land be glad and rejoyce for the Lord
will do great things Jo. 2. v. 21. And I will shew
Wonders in the Heavens, and in the Earth v. 30.*

Written by me *T. Robins.* B. of D. a well wisher to
the gospel of *Iesus Christ.* Oct. 13. 1668.

LONDON, Printed for *T. P.* at the three
Bibles on *London-bridge.*



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News from Darby-shire.

MY beloved Brethren, I beseech you all young or old, rich or poor, of what degree soever you be, which reads or hears this little book I say I would have you to give good attention unto it, for it is worth your observation: for as I have stiled it upon these words, which is *Gods Love from heaven, to sinners on earth*. So I hope by Gods assistance, I shall clearly prove it here unto you as soon as I have declared the subject of this work, which I have taken in hand, and now by Gods help I do intend to let you understand one of the strangest wondrous works as I may call it wrought by the handy work of God in love to *sinners upon earth*, the like never heard on before, I do believe since the Lord created man, which I now shall declare unto you all. within the County of Darby-shire about a mile or some little more off Backwell near a place called Overhadin, near

to a Pasture commonly called *Hadin* Pasture in a little house hard by the Mill, there lived a Damsel called *Martha Taylor* daughter to *William Taylor*, a young woman about 19 years of age, this Maid it is which the Lord pleased to show his handy work upon, and as I may boldly say he hath sent down his spiritual love from heaven upon her: as by the grace of God I do intend to make it plainly appear unto you, for when she was about 12 years old, it pleased the Lord to strike her with a lameness in her limbs, about the small of her back, and so she continued about the space of 6 years, which was a great cause to make her stoop very much in her going, and towards the latter end of those years, it pleased God to take her stomach from her: that she could not eat as formerly she used to do.

But since Saint *Thomas's* day in one thousand six hundred sixty seven, she hath not taken any manner of food, bread, drink, or water, or any thing to preserve mortal life, ever since the day aforesaid; which is from that day to this day of my present writing, 40 weeks and upward, which is as I told you before as strange a wonder as ever was since the creation of man & a thing worthy to be chronicled for a memorial to our seed hereafter

after and as I told you before my conscience tells me I may boldly say it is *Gods love from heaven to Sinners upon earth*, but before I pass any further I do intend to give you a little more satisfaction concerning this Maids fasting which is manifestly made appear: for some of the head of the Gentry of that country having a great desire to be more fully satisfied in the truth, the thing being so wonderful and strange that they scarce knew how to believe: so they thought good to make choice of twenty maids to watch and wait with her, that they might be the better satisfied in the truth: and so there was twenty Maids chosen and they did wait with her every one her turn, and has satisfied for very truth that she doth not receive any kind of food into her body, but all that is done unto her, her mother anointeth her lips with a feather and spring water, by reason of the hotness of her breath, this was certified for very truth by these twenty maids when they had done waiting with her and this I hope will serve to satisfy every true believing Christian that they may receive this wonderful strange story, as a true story, and not as a fable, which I desire that every christian which hears it to believe it for a truth for I my self which is the Author of this little boock

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wou'd have you to understand that my belief is that I should be worse then an infidel, if I should set out any such a miraculous thing as this if it were a fable, and being so bold to joyn it with Gods word, no, far be it from me so to do: for I know it to be true by the evidence of her neighbours, and divers persons and men of quality which hath been with her, and doth affirm it to be true, yet something more I have to let you understand concerning this Maid, which is very strange, considering her long fasting: and that is this for she hath her speech very perfect and has a great delight to talk and discourse in the Scripture with any Scholar, there is very many of the Clegy doth come unto her far and near and hath very much discourse, for she is very ripe witted concerning the word of God, & taketh much delight therein. Also for her person and complexion she is worn away so bare that she hath very small left on her but skin and bone, she hath no belly to be seen, for her intrails are dried up insomuch that you may see her back bone through the skin of her belly, nothing she can be likned to but the picture of death, all her body over but only the Lord keeps life in her her face is indifferent fresh & hath some red in it, her speech very perfect and plain

plain as any of we; but her voice very smal a
 very strange thing unto man, but nothing is
 strange unto the Lord: for as we may read
 in divers parts of Scripture of many things
 which the Lord wrought and brought to pass
 which is very strange to us, and was very
 strange to those people in those days, Enoch
lived nine hundred and five years, and Mathuse-
lah lived nine hundred sixty and nine years. Ge-
 nesis 5. 11. 27. Which is very strange to us,
 for now in our daies it is much to hear of
 any man that liveth one hundred, but I be-
 lieve not in our age that ever any was heard
 of that lived ninescore which is a great deal
 short of nine hundred sixty nine: and yet I
 say if we should hear of any to live so long,
 we should think it very strange, and should
 think it deserved to be Chronicled: then
 much more I say ought this miraculous won-
 der of this Maid to be kept in memorial
 which hath lived above forty weeks witho-
 ut tasting any manner of mortal food, Moses
fasted forty days and forty nights and neither
eat bread nor drank water. Exodus 34. 28
 Which was a mighty thing in those days &
 caused to be recorded in the Scripture, be-
 cause he fasted longer then any was known
 to do before, our Saviour Jesus Christ *fasted*
forty days and forty nights. But now in our

dayes he sheweth greater miraculous wonders in
preserving the life of this woman, without taking
any mortal food now forty weeks and more, which
is already for every day that our Saviour and
Moses fasted.

I say she has fasted for every day a week and
more: and this is it makes me the more bolder
to say it is Gods love from heaven, to sin-
ners on earth, for I do fully believe that it is
for love that the Lord bears to that poor crea-
ture, which makes him to work this wonderful
work upon her, for indeed I could wish with all
my heart, that I and every poor soul living were
but in as good a condition as the soul of that
poor christian is in for this my conscience tells
me I may boldly say that she is fed with
Angels food and the powers of Heaven is
with her, and the Angel of the Lord is her
door-keeper. and without doubt there is a
place provided among those blessed Angels,
where she shall receive life everlasting world
without end.

For why may not the Lord have spoken unto
her the very same words which he spake to Mo-
ses. And he said my presence shall go with
thee, and I will give thee rest Exodus 33. 14.

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A blessed and a comfortable saying this was to have the spirit of the Lord go along with sinners, and this we may be assured; this was for love which the Lord bare to those people for they were but a stiff-necked people, as he tells them in the third verse of this chapter, and yet out of his love he promised to go with them and give them rest, for we may assure our selves the Lord will give rest, wisdom, knowledge and understanding to all such as he loves, as you may find in Proverbs the 7. and the 6 verse. For the Lord giveth wisdom out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

And now to draw toward a conclusion I desire to give you one word or two more concerning the wondrous work of the Lord which I have termed to be Gods love from heaven to sinners upon earth, as you may find it concerning Lazarus for after he had been four days dead the Lord put life into him, as you may find in the thirty ninth chapter of John.

Where he said to Martha take away the stone Martha the sister of him that was dead, said unto him Lord by this time he stinketh for he hath bin
four

daies dead, but for all that Iesus saith unto her, that if thou wouldest beleive, thou shouldst see the glory of God. Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Iesus lift up his eye, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I know that thou hearest me alwayes: but because of the people which stand by, I said it, that they may beleive that thou hast sent me. And when he had thus spoken, he cryed with a loud voice, Lazarus come forth. And he that was dead, came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was bound about with a napkin. Iesus saith unto them, loose him and let him go. as you may find it in the 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. verses of the 11 chapter of Iohn. Many of these wondrous works did our Saviour Iesus Christ shew to the people in those days, yet as you may understand by these words in the 42. v. The people was very hard of belief in those daies, and indeed it is to be feared that there is too many in these days, which will be very loath to beleive this wonderful work which he has wrought upon this woman, nay there is many more places in the Scripture of very strange Miracles which was done in those days I shall but onely give you a hint of some of them, because I am confined unto a small quantity of paper: but in the first place

I pray consider the great work of the Lord in the three children which he preserved from the raging heat of the fiery Furnace as you may finde in *Daniel* the third, also *Daniel* delivered in the Lyons den *Daniel* the 6. *Jonas* in the Whales belly, with divers more places in Scripture which is too tedious for to set down in this smal volumn, yet I call to mind one notable place where our Saviour raised *Jarius* daughter from death to life, and the people mocked him as you may find in the 8 chapter of *Luke* & about the 49 v. & so on to the end of the chapter. While he yet spake there came one from the ruier of the house saying to him, thy daughter is dead, trouble not the Master. But when *Iesus* heard it, he answered him saying, fear not, believe only, and she shall be made whole but in the 52 verse. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, weep not, she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead, but he ut them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise, And her spirit came again, and she arose straight way: and he commanded to give her meat. And here you may see the Lord shewed great love to sinners upon earth, for all they laughed him to scorn as you may find in the 53 verse. Yet he was willing to work that marvellous work upon that young woman, and

and raise her from death to life which was a very strange thing to man, to see those which be dead to have life put in to them again, and indeed this wonder which I have here related to you is much after the same manner, for though she yet never parted with life in this world, yet in considering the condition that she is in now: I say she is much what as dead to this mortal life; having not tasted any kind of mortal food, not of forty weeks and more, which may well be counted a *Wonder of Wonders* to all men now living.

And so now to draw to a conclusion I will end with a word or two of exhortation, desiring every christian to bear in mind this Damsel which I have here spoken of, and to consider the Lord hath not shown this handy work upon her only for her own sin. O no, but as you may find in the 13 of *Luke* & the 5 verse. *I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, yee shall all likewise perish.* and so I pray God give us all grace so to do whilst we live in this world that we may receive life everlasting in the world to come, world without end, *Amen.*

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So the grace of our Lord Jesus-Christ
be with us all this time henceforth and
for evermore *Amen*.

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Here followeth a short
prayer fit to be said by
all sinners.

O Most gracious and most glorious Lord God
give ear unto our Prayer, consider our Pe-
tition and fulfil thy promise made of old to our
forefathers, that when two or three are met to-
gether thou art in the midst of them, so we desire
that thou would be pleased to be with us at this
present time and to make answer unto us: oh thou
that art the God of peace, the God of love, the
God of mercy, we poor miserable and wretched sin-
ners, do beseech thee to be merciful unto us, and
to all sinners: we confesse O Lord we have rebel-
led against thee, and according to thy most holy
word we have most wickedly done these things,
which we should not have done, and we have left
undone that which thou saidest we should do, and
the truth is not in us: but oh Lord have mercy
upon us, have mercy and deal not with us accord-
ing to our desert for Jesus Christ sake, but accord-
ing

ing to thy tender mercy blot out all our offences,
 spare us O Lord and forgive us, make us to be-
 come new creatures, take away from us our stony
 hearts of unbelief, and give us believing hearts
 of flesh, that we may believe, that thou art the
 God that can work great and marvellous and won-
 derful works, thou makest the lame to go, the
 blind to see, the dumb to speak, them that be in
 the grave thou canst raise them up and put life
 into them, and now O Lord thou hast shown thy
 handy work in a most wonderful manner upon the
 body of this our Sister, in giving so long and large
 a time of repentance, for as thou hast given her bo-
 dy power and strength to keep so long a fast from
 mortal food, even so oh Lord wee desire too feed
 her soul with the spiritual food of thy blessed king-
 dome, that when thou art willing that she and we
 shall change this mortal life, then thou would be
 pleased to receive us into thy kingdom, and give
 us that everlasting life which never shall have
 end, Amen Lord Jesus.

FINIS.

